

PEACE and TRADE,

WAR and TAXES:

OR, THE

Irreparable DAMAGE

OF OUR

TRADE

In Case of a

WAR.

In a LETTER to the CRAFTSMAN,

By THO. MERCHANT, Esq;

L O N D O N:

Printed for J. BRINDLEY, in New Bond-
street, R. WALKER, at the White-Hart,
without Temple-Bar, E. NUTT, at the
Royal-Exchange, and sold by the Booksel-
lers of London and Westminster. 1729.
(Price 6 d.)

Trade

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OF

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BY TWO MEN

J. O. N. D. M.

Printed for J. BRINDLEY, in New York.
By W. ALLEN, at the New York
Office of the New York
and London and Westminster
(Price 6s.)



PEACE *and* TRADE,
WAR *and* TAXES, &c.



UNHAPPY *England!* How dear have we paid for *War?* What *Wounds* has it made among us! Tho' *Victors*, how do we *mourn* over our *Conquests*, and think sometimes we have paid too dear for our *Trophies!* How do some of us groan under the Weight of our *Victories*, and chime backward all our *Thanksgiving*, while they feel still the *insupportable Burthen* of a *War*, which left us more *Debts* to pay than we are worth, unless we were very well sold; and how are we more *embarrass'd* at home in our *Peace*, than we were abroad by the *War?* a *Debt*, which grows upon us like a slow *Fever*, and eats out our *Bowels*; a *Debt* that can only pay itself, and whose *Interest* is indeed in the very Letter of it a *Sinking Fund* to the whole *Nation*.

I remember we talk'd much of a *Sponge*, and upbraided some of our *Neighbours* with it, yet what Method do we find our own *Debts* paying off by, while every *Lender*, by abating his *Income*, and paying into a *Sinking Fund*, causes the *Debt* to sink, by paying himself out of the *Interest*.

AND yet while this is the Effect of Necessity, what Objection can we make to it, and why is the Manner of it *offensive*, while no other is to be found? yet this Use may be made of it, that it should teach us to *consider well* of a *War*, before we enter into a *new one*, at least 'till we have *ballanced* the *Accounts* of the *Old*.

LET us cast up then the Benefit of *Peace*, and calculate our *Advantages* before we throw it away again: Let us have a Care how we court a *Plague* instead of a State of *Health*; how we plunge ourselves into a *Pit* from which we do not see our Way out.

PEACE is an anticipated *Heaven*; *War* is a transient *Hell*; *Peace* is all quiet and calm, like the Author of all *Peace*, and is His best Blessing to *Mankind*; *War* is to *Peace* as *Darkness* is to the Day, a Deprivation of all the *Halcyon Joy*, and an *Ingulphing* the World in Horror and Confusion; *War* is indeed a *Leap in the Dark*, and as his Majesty royally express'd it, *pushes us into, or brings with it Evils unknown*.

WHY then are we so hot for a *War*? If Necessity calls for it, if the *Enemy* are distracted, and force us to it, if our just *Defence* requires it, if (to use the King's own Words) *Peace* cannot be had on Terms consistent with preserving the *Honour*, *Interest*, and *Possessions* of *Great-Britain*; I say, if a *War* cannot be avoided, let it

it come, and let us advance chearfully and gallantly into it, like *Britons*, and, like true *Britons*, *Strike home, revenge, revenge our Country's Wrong*: G O D and King George! We have no Room for Fear.

BUT 'till then let us remember our *Country*, our *Commere*, our *Posterity*, all will suffer by a *War*, tho' we were to conquer in every *Battle*, tho' we were ever *victorious*, nay, tho' our *Enemy* was to be ruined, we should in the End be *Losers*; for to a *peaceable, trading Nation*, *War*, like a *Law-Suit*, leaves the Recoverer *Lofer*; nay, tho' he is awarded his *Costs of Suit*, yet his *Lawyer's Bills*, his long *Expence*, his being kept out of his *Right*, put all together, he often finds he had almost as good have sat still, and that the *Estate* sued for, *costs* him more than 'tis worth.

BESIDES, let us look into our own *Affairs*, what have we to do with *War* and *Fighting*? We are a *trading People*, and should value ourselves upon the happy *Success* of *Peace*, not upon the *Trophies* of *War*; it would be more to our *Fame*, if the Word was as elegant to say, we are a *Peace-like*, than a *War-like Nation*.

WE may indeed *fight* as well as other *People* when we come to it, and when we can't help it; but 'tis none of our *Business*, nor is it, or can it be at any time, our *Interest*; *Commerce*, *Advantages*, and urgent *Necessities* (as above) excepted.

WE are I say a *trading Nation*, and would they let us *trade* in *Peace*, should be a *rich Nation*; *Trade* will ever make us *rich*, and us more than any other *Nation* in the *World*, because it can be made appear, that we can get more by
Trade,

Trade, if uninterrupted by the *Depredations* and *Violences* of *War*, than any other Nation can; or at least than they do get.

THE very common Apprehension of Violence by *Pirates*, *Rovers*, *Corfairs*, and *national* Insults at Sea, what a Wound does it give to our *Trade*, and what a Hole or Chasm does it make in our *Gain* every Year !

WAS there an universal Calm thro' the World, no *War*, no *Thieves*, no *Pirates*, no *Algerines*, *Sallee-men*, *Tunizeens*, and *Tripolins* ; in a Word, no *Enemies* to be fear'd, our *Ships* would all sail without great *Guns*, *Paterero's*, &c. without *small Arms*, without *Powder*, by which many a Disaster also happens, and without all the *Addenda* belongiag to necessary Defence ; they are of no Use but against *Rogues* ; they assist nothing to the *Navigation*, they do no Good in a *Storm*, nay, they take up Room, and rob the *Ship* of several Ton of Freight every *Voyage*, besides obliging them to carry more Men; so that *War*, in short, is a dead Charge upon *Trade*, even in the Height of *Peate*.

WHAT an Expence to our *Trade* are all the Preparations for Fighting, on board of the Merchants *Ships* which we send to all Parts of the World ? take all the *Ship* which we send abroad into one Account, I mean all from 6 *Guns* to 40 *Guns*, and cast up the Charge thus,

First Cost of Ports, Bolts, Rings, Gratings, &c. in the Building the *Ship* fit to carry Guns.

The Guns themselves, with their Carriages, and all other Utensils necessary to them.

Small

Small Arms, Cutlasses, Half-Pikes,
Grenades, &c.

Powder, Shot, and all the Gunners
Stores belonging to them extraordinary.

Wages and Victuals to a Gunner and his Mate,
and to as many Men as are carried more than
would be necessary, if there was no Need of
Guns great or small.

All this *Charge* is apparent even in Time of
Peace, besides an Increase of every Branch of it
in case of a *War*, when the very *Colliers* and
Fishermen carry Guns.

THE several Particulars above I doubt not
amount to several Hundred Thousand Pounds
every Year, even while we are in the profoundest
Peace; and all this *Charge* lies upon *Trade*;
if it could be spar'd, it would be all added to
the *Gain* of our *Commerce*, and assist plentifully
to increase it.

BUT if it is thus in Time of *Peace*, what
must it be in case of a *War*? when to the whole
must be added the *Loss* of so many *Ships* and
Cargoes of Goods, however *rich*, which will
necessarily, and notwithstanding the utmost
Caution, fall into the *Enemies* Hands, and be
taken by their *Privateers*, and *Ships of War*; a
Loss always greater to *us* than to any other
Nation, by how much the Number of *Ships*
which we employ in *Trade* is greater than that
of any other Nation in *Europe*.

N. B. At the Beginning of the first *French*
War the *Enemy* took 3000 Sail of *Mer-*
chants Ships from *us* within two Years,
among

among which some were exceeding *rich*, as well from the *East-Indies* as the *West*; and all the *Ships* we took from them in that Time were but sixty-seven, as by an *Account* laid before the *Parliament* in the Year 1692.

THIS *Greatness* of our *Trade*, and *Number* of our *Ships*, is our *Felicity*, as it is our *Wealth*, and has *raised* this Nation to what it now is; but it is also an unanswerable *Reason* why we, of all the *Nations* of *Europe*, should be most careful to preserve *Peace* in the World, for the *Support* and *Prosperity* of our *Trade*, which so much depends upon it.

PEACE and *Trade*, like the *Plowman* and a kindly *Season*, are close Confederates for the World's *Prosperity*: The two last bring a good *Harvest*, the two first bring a good *Market*; *Peace* brings Plenty of *Food*, and *Trade* Plenty of *Money* to buy it; the *Peace* makes the World *fat*, the *Trade* makes the World *full*; the last *easy*, and the first *happy*.

UPON the foot of these generals we may justly add, that *War*, which is the opposite Extreme, is so far from being a Confederate with *Trade*, that 'tis its utter Enemy, and with very few, and those very mean Exceptions, is always ruinous and destructive to it.

WAR is *Indolence*, TRADE is *Industry*; WAR is a *Destroyer*, TRADE a *Nurse* (of and) to the *Wealth* and *Prosperity* of a Country; WAR is the *Medium* of *Destruction*, *Poverty* and *Waste*, TRADE is the *Medium* of *Wealth*, *honest Labour*, and *Plenty*.

I must

I must be allowed to say, tho' I shun all *Party-making* in this Tract, that those People who just now talk so *Cavalierly* of *Fighting*, and whose *Pulse* beat so high for a *War*, have not given themselves Leave, or Leisure at least, to consider the stated *Consequences* of a *War*, and perhaps some of them expect no Share in it, except it be as *By-standers*, that is to say, to look on and find *Fault*.

There are few Nations, if any in the World, that get less by *Victory*, and pay more for *Fighting*, than the *English*; *England* seeks no *Conquest*, no *Acquisitions* of Dominions by a *War*: Though we are as well qualify'd for the *WAR*, and have as good Spirits to carry it on, as most Nations; yet 'tis *Peace*, not *Conquest*, that is our Business. We seek to *preserve* and *enrich* our own Possessions, and want not to possess those of other *Men*.

We seek *PEACE*, and the Reason is because, as I said above, we know how to make better *Use* of it than other Nations do; they may get by a *War*, but *England* never loses by a *Peace*. We may be trick'd indeed into an unseasonable making it; but as I am not speaking of the *Politicks* of *Peace*, but of the natural *Consequences* of it. I may insist, That the natural *Effects* of *Peace* to *England* are the *Encrease* of *Trade*, *Employment* for the *Poor*, *Encouragement* of *Navigation*, the extending Colonies, and, in a Word, the Addition of *Wealth* and *Prosperity* to all the People in general.

If *Peace* is interrupted, and especially if the expected unhappy Interval of *War* should continue any considerable while, how many and what

dreadful Convulsions may it cause among the *peaceable* Subjects of a *Trading Nation* ?

To begin at the foreign Part : The MERCHANT, who is the Life of all our Commerce, and the *Director* of all its Motions, feels the first Effects of it ; his Ships are *taken*, the rich Loadings of Merchandize are carried to *foreign* Markets, instead of coming to our *own* ; the *Ships* are condemned and sold for the Use of the *Captors*, not the *Owners* ; the Goods enrich and enable the *Enemy* to fit out more *Cruizers*, to take more Prizes, instead of enriching and enabling *Us* to fit and freight out more Ships.

Nor is this all : The *Merchant* suffers even when his Ships go and come *safe* ; for the Wages to Seamen, the *Freight* of Ships for Carriage of Goods, the *Price* of Insurance, nay, the *sitting out* of Ships, as well as the *Victualling* and *Manning* of them, rise all in Proportion by these Additions. Trade requires more *Stock*, his Adventures have more *Hazard*, his Returns are more *difficult*, in a Word, because he carries on his *Business* with *innumerable* Difficulties, and under vast *Discouragements* which he knew nothing of before.

As the Merchant is thus oppress'd and discourag'd, who, as I said above, is the *Director* of all our *Trading* Motions ; so of Course the Smart of the Wound is felt to all the remotest Parts of the Body ; all the *Dependents* upon *foreign* Trade sink under the same Weight, and feel the Force of the same Blow ; the *Merchant* holds his Hand, either his Orders and Commissions from abroad do not come over,
or

or they abate in their *Quantity*, for want of free Intercourse of Navigation : The risque of a Trade always lessens its Magnitude ; as the Rates of Things rise, so the Consumption abates.

Or, if he does receive Orders and Commissions from abroad, he is backward in executing them ; he does not adventure so chearfully and pleasantly as he us'd to do before, inasmuch as the *Hazards* and *Dangers* at Sea are encreas'd ; so likewise the *Credit* of his Factors and Dealers is more uncertain and doubtful, and he scarce knows who to *trust* ; for Things are infinitely more precarious abroad, as well as at home ; the Difficulties of the War affecting Trade every where else, as well as here.

These Things cause the *Merchant* to stop his *Hand*, and if he does not stand quite still, and, as it were, look about him to see how Things will go, yet he goes on but faintly ; where he us'd to send *three Ships* to *Newfoundland* for Fish, he now sends but *One*, perhaps not one ; where he us'd to adventure *Thousands*, he is now content with *Hundreds*, or, perhaps, sits still, draws home his Effects as fast as he can, and holds his *trading Hands* till he sees the Seas open, and the World better settled ; that is, in short, till he sees at least some Prospect of Peace again, when he may trade with more safety and Success.

The first and more immediate Consequence of this Interruption is, that the Manufactures, which are the Life of our foreign Importations, as well as of our Home Consumption, are not taken off ; the Buyer being discouraged, the

Buying ceases; the Warehouses of Factors and Wholesale-Dealers are throng'd with Goods; *Blackwell-Hall* shews the vast Piles of *Broad-Cloths* and *Spanish Cloths*, *Gloucester* and *Worcester* Whites, and fine *Medleys* of *Wilts* and *Somerset*; vast Numbers of Packs and Bales of *Serges*, *Duroys* and *Druggets* from *Exeter* and *Taunton*, *Devizes*, and several other Places, lye unopen'd. The Demand ceases abroad, the Market is over at home; no body buys and no body sells.

The stagnation here is not so immediately felt, but that its Influences soon reaches into the Country, where it is very terrible: Here 'tis a Complaint only, but there 'tis a sad Calamity! Here it affects perhaps some *Hundreds*, but there *Thousands*, nay, *Millions*! Let us look a little into this dismal Scene.

First of all, the *Master-Manufacturer*, or *Clothier*, in the Country, receives the melancholy News from his Factor in *London*, or elsewhere, that his *Goods* lye on Hand; his *Bills* drawn upon the Credit of them are consequently unaccepted, and sent back, there being no *Money* to be had. Upon this sad News, all the Goods he has at Home are laid up; his Lofts or Warehouses are as full as *Blackwell-Hall*, for what is in Hand must be finished. But when the poor Weaver brings home his Pieces, and wants *more* Work, the Clothier *shakes his Head*, and tells him, He has *nothing* to do; for Goods will not sell. The like Answer is given to the *yet poorer* Spinners and Carders, who are but just able to find *Bread* before (by their Work) when they had it to do; but now, on such a *melancholy*

News

News as this, must starve and *perish* for want, or come to the *Parish* to be kept.

The next Thing you hear of, is the Men run away, and either enter on board the Ships, or list for Soldiers, merely for *Bread*, and to be kept from starving; the only *Good* that War can do.

The Men being thus fled, the Consequence is soon seen in the Parish Books; the Poor's-Rate rises up from *two* to *four*, and, in some Places, *six* Shillings in the Pound; and should it so hold for a long time, the Poor would eat up the Rich, and the whole Rent of the Lands be scarce sufficient to maintain them.

Where the Men do not fly to the Army and Navy, 'tis sometimes worse; for, while they abandon their Families, *ill People*, and disaffected to the Government get among them, and first, filling their Heads with *Politicks*, and then with *Rage* of Parties, they grow saucy and mutinous, get together into Clubs and Cabals, then into Rabbles and Mobbs; in either of which they commit insufferable Disorders, such as threaten them with the Gallows; and then, which is still worse, for fear of that, run into down-right *Rebellion* and War; Things which seldom fail to bring them to that very point, I mean the Halter, which they hazarded their Lives before to avoid.

These are some of the Effects of a *War*, and which, let it come when it will; and even in its best Circumstances, *We*, as a *Trading Nation*, may find to be too *true*. So that those *publick* Ministers, who do their utmost to prevent a *War*, may not be so much our Enemies as we take them to be, or at least as they are deemed

deemed by some People. But, SIR, *by the Way*, my Business here is not to *accuse*, or *excuse*, but to state the Thing as it really stands in our View, and shew it in such a clear Light, that every Party may judge and determine, before the Blow is given, what may be the Consequence of a war to their *Native Country*.

Nor is this laying down the Consequence of a War chargeable with any intimidating Design, as if we wou'd discourage our People, and expose them to the Contempt of our supposed Enemies; for it does by no means follow, (as some talk by way of Reproach) that we are afraid of a *War*. It is true, we may be afraid of a War, when it may be true, that we may not be afraid of *Fighting*; and when, if we should come to Action, our *Ability* that way may let our Enemies see, to their *Cost*, how ill-grounded their *early Triumphs* are; and that they have been taught by their Pride too much to contemn a Nation who they are not able to *Match* either by Sea or Land.

This therefore is not my Business here, but to enquire a little into the state of our *Trade*, and what the Consequences will be, or are likely to be, on the side of the Question in Case of any War that may happen.

N. B. Before I proceed in this critical Enquiry, I find it necessary to prevent, if possible, all manner of Party-Cavils at my Terms; and therefore to explain what I mean by a WAR, in the present Acceptation of the Word, and as it relates to the state of Things now before us: For tho' *War* in general is allowed

low'd to be a potent Negative in the Prosperity of our *Trade*; yet some Cases may be more so than others.

By WAR, in the present Circumstance of *Europe*, and as it seems to stand in a perspective situation, I mean. (1.) A *War* to be made against the *Emperor* and *Spain*, as they stand now *Ally'd*, including all those Powers which they have *engaged*, or can engage, on their side against Us. Or, (2.) A *War* with the *Emperor* and *Spain* united, and their *Allies*, as above, and perhaps other Enemies falling in with them upon any Dislike or Disgust conceiv'd of, or at the *Treaty*: Or otherwise, supposing any other Nations should declare themselves *Neuter*, so as to withdraw their Alliance from Us, who at present seem to lay rather too much, than too little stress upon the particular Friendship of our *Allies*.

I shall not concern myself with ranging the particular Allies and Confederates on one side or another, or drawing a Balance for the Field in case of such a War; but enquire, according to my profess'd Scheme in these Sheets, what shall be the Case of the *Trade* of this *Nation*, supposing a Rupture with either *Germany* and *Spain*.

I think they are Enemies enough for one Nation to break with at a Time, especially as Things stand now in the World, and as we too much depend upon the free Intercourse of our Trade among other Nations: If any other Enemies should appear in Consequence of such a War, they may be mentioned on some other Occasion.

In

In a Book lately published in *London*, entitled, *A Plan of the English Commerce*, we are told, and I believe truly enough, that the *English Trade* to the Dominions of the *Emperor*, as those Dominions are now settled by the late Peace of *Utrecht*, are very considerable; and that the *Flemings*, on one hand, and the *Italians*, on the other, I mean so far as they are subject to the *Emperor of Germany*, take off very great Quantities of the Produce of *England* and *Ireland* every Year.

As for the *Spaniards*, the same *Author* tells us expressly, they buy almost all Things they wear from *Abroad*; and how great a share of that must come from *England*, we all know; since, tho' *France* makes great Efforts at the Woollen Manufacture, yet it is not to be named in Comparison with *England*, especially when we speak of their Exportation to *Spain*.

It is true, the *Dutch* supply the *Spaniards* with Linen, and the *Flemings* with Lace; the *French* also, I may allow, fills them with wrought Silks, including the *Genoese*, and also with Woollen Manufactures. But the *English* still have the main stroke of the Trade to *Spain*, as to their several Manufactures: Besides, great Quantities of Fish, especially Herring, Pilchard, Salmon and white Fish, the two last from *Ireland*, *Newfoundland* and *New England*, but all in *English Ships*.

The Returns for these Exports to *Spain* are indeed more considerable to us than to any other Nation; because we are qualified to take off more of their Growth and Produce than any other can do; and yet those Returns are so far from amounting to a Balance of our Exports

Exportation, that it is certain they, the *Spaniards*, pay us very large Sums yearly in *hard Ware*, that is to say, in *Bullion*, or *Pieces of Eight*, which we receive from them on all the Returns of their Fleets from *America*.

The Goods which we take from them, and which I call the Growth and Produce of *Spain*, are chiefly

Wines; such as

Sherry from *Cadiz*.

Mountain Whites from *Mallaga*.

Red Wine from *Alicant*, *Bene Carlo*, *Barcellona*, *Gallicia*, &c.

Canary from the Islands of that Name.

Wool and Iron from *Bilboa*.

Some Raw Silk from *Valencia*.

Fruits; such as

Nuts from *Bilboa*, and other Ports in the Bay of *Biscay*.

Almons from the South Coast of *Spain*.

Raisins from *Mallaga* and *Alicant*, *Donia* and *Xevia*.

Oranges and Lemons from *Sevil* and *Mallaga*, &c.

These I call the Growth and Produce of *Spain*, not but that other Countries may produce the like, such as *Barbary*, *Portugal* and *Italy* also; but because they are imported immediately and only from *Spain* by us: Nor do any other Nation take off these Goods from the *Spaniards*, in any considerable Quantity but the *English*; *Wool* and *Iron* excepted.

As to the Growth and Produce of *New Spain*, or the *Spanish* Dominions in *America*; tho' we do take off great Quantities of those Goods, yet 'tis but in common with the other

C

Nations

Nations our Neighbours; such as the *Dutch* and *French* in particular, tho' I am told we take off much more in Quantity than either of those Nations, or perhaps than both of them put together.

N. B. The chief Return of Goods which the *English* take off from the *Spaniards* of the Growth of their *American* Colonies, are as follow :

Hides of Black Cattle and Horses from *Buenos Ayres* and the *Havana*.

Cochineal	}	From <i>Mexico</i> and <i>Peru</i> .
Anilla		
Cocoa		
Venelloes		
Indico		
Bark Peru		
Snuff		
Drugs of various kinds	}	

But to bring it all back to my Purpose. Notwithstanding this great Return which the *Spaniards* are enabled to make us in their own Growth and Produce, or in that of the *West-Indies*, yet we are said to be entitled to as great a share of their *Bullion* or *Specie*, upon the Return of their *Galleons*, as any other Nation whatsoever, and perhaps a greater.

The Question then immediately before me is, Whether such a War, as is now suggested, with *Spain*, will not hinder the Export of all our Commodities thither, as well as prevent the large share of their Silver and Gold in Return

turn for the same? We hope there will be no Room to imagine the *French* to be embark'd in the same Quarrel; yet perhaps they would not endeavour to prevent a stop of Trade between *England* and *Spain*; since we all know it would be greatly their Interest to have such a Thing happen.

Upon such a *Prohibition* of Commerce then with *Spain*, we are immediately prevented, as well in the Export of so great a Quantity of our Manufacture and Produce, as in the Return of such a large share of Silver in Specie, as we daily had from thence before, in Consequence of our Merchandize: Both which are very great Articles in the general Balance of our Trade; for Manufactures sent out, and Money brought home, (let the Nation be what it will) are two the most gainful Branches of Traffick, speaking of any Trade or Trading Country whatever.

Add to this, besides our Woollen Manufactures, 1. The Export of Fish; 2. The Assiento, or Licence for Export of *Negroes* to the *Spaniards* in *America*; and 3. The Number of Ships employed by the *English* in the whole Trade with *Spain*. All which is carried on, and, it may be said, more than our Part of it, by *English* Ships only.

It must be acknowledged then, that, let the Issue of a War be as prosperous as you can well conceive it to be, yet, during its Continuance, it must be an *Irreparable Damage* to our Trade, as well by preventing the Consumption of our Manufactures in those Countries which we are at War with, and consequently our Exportation of them; as by preventing the

the Reflux of Bullion in Specie, which is the Life of Trade, in Return for those Manufactures. If this be not sufficiently demonstrated to be *Irreparable*, I shall add two Articles more to it, equally cogent, which, I suppose, will put it past all Dispute.

1. Such a stop of *Trade* immediately causes a stop of *Navigation*; and if it is true, as some Authors have affirm'd, and as has been often represented to the Parliament, that above *five hundred* Sail of Ships are yearly employ'd in the Trade between the Dominions of *Spain* and *Italy*, on one side, and the Dominions of *Great-Britain*, on the other; It must necessarily follow, that all those Ships must immediately want Employment, or thrust themselves in at other Intervals in Trade, wherever they can find them; by which other Ships, it may be suppos'd, must consequently be thrust out: What the Damage must be to our Commerce by 500 Sail of Ships being left without *Employ*, which had full *Business* before, may be left to every serious Reader to consider: Whether it be not an *Irreparable Damage* to that *valuable* Branch of our Trade; And consequently undeniably proves my Allegation? But this is not all: For,

2. It is observ'd in *Trade*, that long Interruptions of Commerce between Nations, formerly trading considerably together, prove always fatal to the *Trade* of those Nations; and particularly on this Account, that, (being acquainted with their respective *Manufactures*, and used very much to buy, and perhaps make also, some of those *Manufactures*, whenever they are prohibited the trading in them from

from *Abroad*) Necessity prompts to imitate them at *Home*, and so bringing their People, first to shift without them, and then to shift with their own counterfeit or imitated Manufactures instead of them, they at last *naturalize* them to themselves, and so run away with the Trade itself.

We need go no farther for a Proof of this, than to our own Conduct in the late *French* War: How many *French* Manufactures did we, (as it were) rob *them* of, during that tedious Quarrel, by setting them up in several Places at *Home*, where they had never been made before? For those Manufactures being such as we could not do well without, the want of them made us *first* make shift with the worst of our *Imitations*, till at last our Manufacturers, improving in their Knowledge, have out-done their Teachers; and it is evident that we now make those Goods *better* than they were ever made before, even in *France* itself, though the *French* once had the whole Trade.

The *French*, for Instance, formerly made a vast Quantity of useful *Linens* in two sorts, the one called *Lockram*, the other *Dawlas*; they were bought about *Morlaix*, and other Parts in *Normandy* and *Britany*, and the chief Trade for their Consumption was usually in *England*, which took off at least 200000 *l.* worth in a Year.

When the War broke out with *France*, a compleat Prohibition of Commerce pass'd between the two Nations; what follow'd? Why the *English* generally demanding the Goods, and the Government, on either side, refusing to abate the Rigour of the Prohibition; so that they

they could not be imported but by stealth, we set the *Hamburgers* at work to imitate them, who soon, to great Perfection, made *both kinds* of them; and tho' they were not at first equally good and cheap as the *French*, yet we made shift with them; and nothing can be more apparent, because we have never gone back to the *French* for theirs; no, not since the Trade has been open, notwithstanding the Goodness and Cheapness of the *French* Cloth did at first out-do them. Thus the *French*, by that single Prohibition, have actually lost the *Manufacture*, or at least the *Trade* of it to *England*, which was the most profitable Part of it, and the *Germans* have run away with it, almost all.

We might give Example, next to this, of the Hats made at *Caudebec*, and other Places about *Havre de Grace*, whose Cheapness and Goodness so much out-did our *English* Hats, that we were oblig'd, many Years before the first War, to prohibit the Importation of *French* Hats, lest our own Manufacture of that Commodity should be entirely lost. But when the War came on, and the Prohibitions more general and effectual, that Trade was entirely stopt, which thrust us upon Hat-making ourselves; and at length became such Proficients, that we not only cut the *French* out of it, but make the Hats both better and cheaper than the *French*, and often now sell Hats to them.

The like may be said of the *Manufacture* of Glass, which was so universally *French*, that all our fine Looking-Glasses, and Plate-Glass for Coaches and Sashes, was made in *Normandy*. Our best Window-Glass also was called, by way of Distinction, *Normandy-Window Glass*, and

and *Crown-Glass* of *Normandy*: But now both the *Crown-Glass* and *Window-Glass*, as well as the *Looking-Glass*, *Coach-Glasses* and *Sash-Plates*, are all made here, and that to such Perfection; that, as we said before, the Manufacture seems to be transpos'd from *France* to *England*.

But the greatest and most fatal Blow that ever was given to *France* in Trade, has been in the Manufacture of *Broad-Silks*; of which their annual Export to this one Nation of *Britain* amounted, (if we may believe the Author of the fore-mentioned *Plan*, and several others who wrote upon the Subject of Trade) to no less than a Million Sterling *per Ann.* Some have insisted indeed that it amounted to twelve hundred thousand Pounds a Year; of which the Improvement is now so great in *England*, that we do not take fifty thousand Pounds a Year from *France* in all their *Silk Trade*. On the contrary, if some others may be believed, they buy *Broad-Silks* from hence, tho' I do not affirm that part.

There are other Examples of the like Kind, but these are enough effectually to make out what I bring them to prove, namely, the risque which *Manufacturing* Nations run by long Intervals of Commerce, with those who took off large Quantities of their *Manufactures* before; and who, being under a Necessity of having those *Manufactures* for their Use, are driven by that very *Necessity*, either to make 'em themselves, or to set other Nations upon doing it, who are perhaps qualified to perform it; in which Case those *Manufactures* seldom return
to

to their former station, nor do the first Manufacturers ever recover the Loss of them.

That this may be our Case in a long War, if such should happen, is not so unlikely as to make it not worth our Reflection; and as slothful, proud, and indolent as the *Spaniards* are reported to be, it is not improbable but some diligent Hands coming among them, perhaps from *France*, or, which is not impossible, from *England* itself, or *Ireland*, and first prompting their *Avarice*; Diligence and Application may happen to be rouz'd up among them by the View of *Gain*, to our Irreparable Damage in Trade.

They who do not think encouraging the *Spaniards* to fall upon our *Manufactures* worth Notice; while we know they have the finest Wool in the World at *Segovia*, and the Parts adjacent; and where they are not remote from the *Barbary* Wool to work with it: I say, those who do not think encouraging a *Woollen* Manufacture there may in time be dangerous to Us, have either a great deal more Knowledge of Trade than I am Master of, or else cannot be Well-wishers to the Commerce of our Country.

From the MANUFACTURES let us proceed to the FISHING TRADE. It cannot be denied but that *Spain* and *Italy* are the principal Markets for our *Fish*; I mean such Fish as we cure in the South Part of *Great-Britain*; that is to say, the *Herrings* Red and White, and the *Pilchards* also, the *White Fish* and *Salmon* cur'd in *Ireland*, *New England* and *Newfoundland*;

land; all which, or the greatest Part of them, are also carried to *Spain* and *Italy*.

The *Scots* indeed have a Market for their *Herrings* in the *Baltick*, as well as the *Dutch*; but that is not to the purpose. If a thorough Prohibition of Commerce with *Spain* and *Italy* should be the Consequence of such a *War*, as it is more than probable would be the Case, two Things might justly be expected.

1. That our *Navigation* would immediately suffer a great stop or Interruption, and that a very essential one; namely, the great Number of Ships and Seamen who are now employed in carrying *Fish* to those Countries, of all which mention is made already, would be at once thrown out of *Bread* and *Business*.
2. That many *Hundreds*, I might say *Thousands*, of Seamen and *small Craft*, which are employed in and about the Fisheries, would also be cut short in their Employments, *viz.* in catching, killing, curing, and bringing to Market the many thousand Lasts of *Herrings*, Tons of *Salmon*, and *Quintals* of *White Fish*, &c. taken by the Subjects of *Great-Britain*, as well *here*, as in *Ireland*, *Newfoundland*, *New England* and other Places.

N. B. By *small-Craft*, I mean as the Seamen understand it, *viz.* all Kinds of *Fishing Vessels*, such as *Smacks*, *Hoys*, *Barks*, *Busses*, *Sloops*, *Ketches*, *Cobles*, *Shalops*, and other Boats, such as are usually employed in catching, and curing the several sorts of

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Fish

Fish mentioned above, whose Number may indeed be said to be innumerable, and whose Business and Employment may be truly said to be the greatest Nursery of hardy, stout and able Seamen in all the King's Dominions, even greater than the *Colliery* itself.

That these will, generally speaking, in a great measure be *interrupted*, may be true of any *War*, especially where *Spain* is a Party; and this I mention to anticipate those who may otherwise think to throw that Objection in, as an Answer to what I have offered.

Altho' it may be granted, that a War with *Spain* would indeed very much obstruct and interrupt our *Fishing Trade*, as it cuts us off from many considerable Markets where our Fish is now vended; such as *Bilboa*, the *Corunna*, *Vigo*, all the Ports on the *Spanish* side of the Bay of *Biscay* and *Galicie*; also *Cadiz*, *Malaga*, *Alicant*, the little Port of *Valencia*, also *Char-tagena*, *Barcellona*, and all the lesser Ports on the South side of *Spain* on the Coast of the *Mediterranean Sea*: And I am ready to acknowledge this very considerable. Yet I own this would not amount to a total suppression of the Fish Trade in those Seas; for we should still have the Coast of *Italy* open to us, and therein the Ports of *Genoa*, *Leghorn*, *Naples*, *Messina* and *Venice*; at which Places we always find a Market, and that the more considerably, by how much the Demand was usually doubl'd by Orders from the *Spanish* Ports.

But

But now, should the Emperor, being Master of the greatest Part of the Harbours of *Italy*, and of all *Sicily*; shut up his Ports in those Countries against us, I see not one Port of any consequence, where, in all *Italy*, we might find a Market for our *Fish*, but that of *Leghorn*, *Genoa*, and *Venice*, if we should have a War with the *Emperor* and *Spain* together.

We are told, that, if a War breaks out at this Time, the *Emperor* will immediately prohibit our Commerce at all his Ports, as well in *Italy* as in *Flanders*, and elsewhere, as far as he can have any Influence; I do not say it is so, but I think it is not at all improbable.

We never, as either I remember, or have read in the History of any Time, that we have had a War both with *Spain* and the *Emperor* together, since the Time of King *Henry VIII.* when *Charles V.* was both Emperor and King of *Spain*, and Lord of all the *seventeen Provinces*, called then the *Low Countries*, including both *Flanders* and *Holland* in their publick and most extensive Capacities; I mean, as they contain what we now call *The States General*, and the *Austrian Netherlands*.

But then we had almost no *Fishing Trade* to carry on: *England* had no Colonies in *America*, no *Fishery* on the Banks of *Newfoundland*, or on the Coast of *New England*; nor had We so many Vessels employ'd in our own Seas, and on our Coast, in the several *Fisheries*, as we have now. In a Word, this *Trade* is all acquir'd since that Time; and, as it will be in danger of being ruin'd, or at least interrupted, fatally by a new *War*: so it is well worthy

recommending to Consideration, Whether it ought not to be well weigh'd, before such a War be engag'd in, especially seeing the Advantage of carrying on those *Trades* are so very considerable to *our* Interest, and may be of such *Consequence* to us, if lost.

I am told, the *Spaniards* have it under Consideration, to send Ships to the Banks of *Newfoundland*, at least for a *Sack*, as the Merchants call it, *that is to say*, to buy Fish; This they may always do there for their Money; and should they be so wise, as, I must acknowledge, I wonder they have not been long ago; the very Ships they would employ in this *our* Trade, would, in consequence, encourage the breeding up so many Seamen among them, and cause them to build so many Ships, as would, in all probability, help very much to restore them to that Degree of Strength, which they once had, *viz.* of being *most formidable* at Sea.

But I proceed now to examine the *particular Trade only*, which will be thus interrupted by a War, as we have it now represented to us, *viz.* with *Spain* and the *Emperor*: Let me only reckon up to you the several Ports and Places where now your Ships and Merchants freely come, and in which they carry on a Trade for so many Millions; and let us enquire how much Trade we shall have left *free* and *unmolested*, all our Trade in those Ports being *interrupted* by a War.

First, For the *Flemish* Trade; We have now *Ostend*, *Neuport*, and *Dunkirk*; the last is called *French*, and is so in Possession; but it is a *Door of Commerce* into *Flanders*, and so will be, in a Manner, prohibit and shut up in the general

ral Prohibition of Trade with the *Emperor's* Dominions.

From hence we are not to suppose we have one Port (for any considerable ; for our Trade to *France* is but small) no, not thro' the whole Chanel, round the Bottom of the *Bay of Biscay*, and about by *Cape Finisterre*, 'till you come to *Viana* and *Oporto* in *Portugal*.

Going on then *South*, you have indeed the *Portugal Coast* to *Cape St. Vincent* friendly (their own Interest in Trade directing them ;) But then from the Bay of *Cadiz* inclusive, round the Point call'd *Traffalgar*, or *Travel-de-Gar*, as our Sailors call it, you have nothing but *France* and *Spain*, till you come to *Nice* and *Villa Franca*, belonging to the King of *Sardinia*, who, perhaps, may, for his own Interest, stand neuter.

N. B. We must not forget here that *Gibraltar* and *Port Mahon* in *Minorca* are our own ; but it must be added too, that they are no Ports for Trade, and the *first* none of the safest Road neither.

The Coasts of *Italy* and *Sicily* comes next, of which, as influenc'd by the *Emperor*, I have spoken above.

A Stop of Commerce at *all these Ports* may reasonably be expected, in Case of a War ; and though I grant most readily that it ought to be submitted to with all its *worst Circumstances*, if, as His MAJESTY expresses it, a Peace cannot be had, consistent with the Honour, Interest, and Possessions of *Great Britain*.

Yet I must say, and this is the Reason of all that has been said, that these things concur to
make

make it reasonable to avoid a War, if possible; and will abundantly recommend to us the using all possible Endeavours, in Concurrence with our Allies, to preserve that *Peace*, by which *Our Trade* has been preserv'd to this Time in a *flourishing and prosperous Condition*; and, that it is so, may be easily prov'd, notwithstanding all that is pretended or suggested to the contrary: And indeed this Complaint of the *Declining of our Trade* appears to be more a *Party-Wrangle*, than a *sedate Enquiry* into the *Fact*, and has two Circumstances attending it, which confirms me in calling it so:

1. The Calculating it for a Concurrence in Time, and other Circumstances, with other Branches of the *Party-Quarrel*, now in its hight among us, and carry'd on both within Doors and without, by *Your Letters* of the *CRAFTSMAN*, and *Others*, for *manifest Ends* of *Your own*, and to serve a particular Turn.
2. The manner of debating it, *viz.* by Cavil and *Suggestions* only, not by *Merchant-like Arguments*, just Calculations, and *ordinary Rules of Trade*.

You might be argued with from the *Consumption* of the whole Growth of the Wool of *England*, which is not abated, or sunk in Price, which it would be, if it wanted a Market, and which, as it appears, is not sufficient for our Manufactures, but that we are oblig'd to fetch a prodigious Quantity, more than ever before, as well *spun into Yarn*, as *rough* and in the Fleece,
from

from *Ireland*, and also from *Scotland* almost as much. This is made out by a very fair and just Calculation, by the Author before quoted, to be not less than 200000 Packs of Wool every Year, and every Pack weighing 240 *l.* weight.

Our *Fishing Trade*, next to our *Woollen Manufacture*, may be called the most important Trade, I mean of *foreign Business*, which this Nation carries on in the World; and let those who think it decay'd examine the following Specimens of the *Fishery*, and compare them with former Years, and tell us, if they please, when they find greater *Exports*: I have a particular Account, which I am able to prove, if need be, of these several Quantities of *Fish* carry'd to *Spain* and *Italy* this last Year, viz.

16685 Barrels of *Red Herrings* shipp'd at *Yarmouth*, in the Month of *November* last, for several Ports of *Italy* and *Spain*, and most of them to *Leghorn* only, besides what went away in *October* and *November*, which, it is reasonable to suppose, was near as much.

N. B. They cur'd at *Yarmouth* and *Leostoffe* this Year above 40000 Barrels of *Red Herrings*.

37890 Quintals of <i>Cod-Fish</i>	} all from <i>Newfoundland</i> and <i>New-England</i> , and all in <i>English Ships</i> .
to the Port of <i>Bilboa</i> only	
22650 Quintals ditto, to	
——— <i>Leghorn</i> and <i>Venice</i> ,	

60540 Besides very great Quantities of the same Fish to *Lisbon*, *Cadiz*, *Malaga*, *Allicant*, and all the other Ports of the *Mediterranean*.

600 Ton of *Salmon* shipp'd at *Londonderry*, chiefly by *Freight* from *England*, and sent to *Leghorn* and *Venice*.

All this Account is *exclusive* of the *Herrings* and *Pilchards* cur'd on the Coasts of *Devon* and *Cornwall*, which amount to a very great Quantity, and which, it may be made appear, have not been fewer this Year than formerly.

Also this Account is *exclusive* of the vast Quantity of *Herrings* taken and cur'd on the West Coast of *Scotland*, at the *Leues*, and other Islands, and shipp'd off at *Glasgow*, and other Ports in the *Firth* of *Clyd*, also at *Londonderry*, *Belfast*, and other Ports in the North of *Ireland*.

If these Accounts are consistent with a Decay of Trade ? If the Shipping employ'd in them are less than usual ? Or, if they have not found a Market at the several Ports they have unloaded at, the Opposers ought to let us know it ; but we do not find any such Complaint among the *Merchants*, and, till we do, I see no Cause to suggest it.

All these are Arguments to raise the Value of *Peace* to us, if it can be *Obtained* ; only take *This* with you as you go, That it is always supposed it may be *HONOURABLY Obtained* ; if not, a *War* must be ventured, let the *Hazard* be what it will.

I am, SIR, Yours, &c.

T. MERCHANT.

FINIS.



